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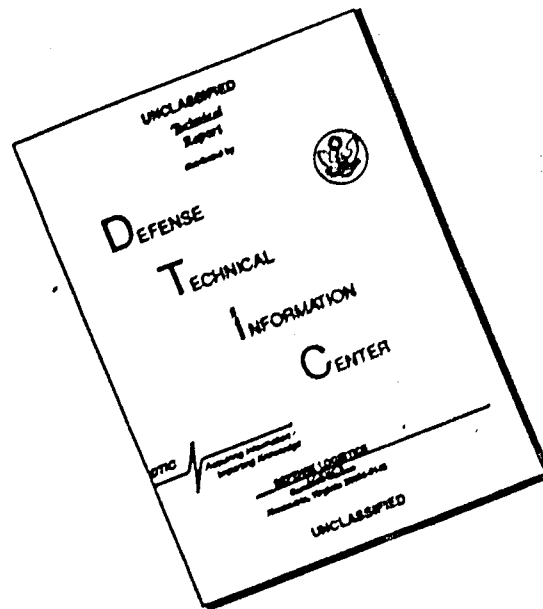
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Kenneth G. Nickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM  
Major General, USA  
The Adjutant General

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 223d AVIATION BATTALION (COMBAT)  
APO San Francisco 96238

AVBACB-DE

9 February 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 223d Aviation Battalion  
(Combat), Period Ending 31 January 1970 (U)

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## 1. Section 1, Operations: Significant Activities.

a. (U) General. This report covers the period 1 November 1969 through 31 January 1970, and is submitted in accordance with AR 525-15 and USARV Regulation 525-15. This report includes the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 223d Aviation Battalion (Combat), 18th Aviation Company (Utility Airplane), 163d Medical Detachment, 183d Aviation Company (Utility Airplane), 185th Aviation Company, (Utility Airplane), 203d Aviation Company (Utility Airplane), 219th Aviation Company (Utility Airplane), and the 225th Aviation Company (Surveillance Airplane).

### b. (C) Personnel.

(1) Infusion Program: No significant problems have occurred during this quarter and any conflicts have been resolved internally. Prior problems in the 163d Medical Detachment were resolved by replacement personnel from CONUS. The present rate of foreign service tour extensions coupled with the current flow of replacements appear sufficient to preclude future problems without requiring outside assistance.

### (2) Replacements:

(a) Enlisted replacements were received in satisfactory numbers during the final two months of this quarter after an initial period of insufficient replacements, (EM assigned: Nov 9; Dec 64; Jan. 98). The quality of junior enlisted replacements is lacking. MOS producing schools appear to be graduating personnel on the basis of time spent in school rather than proficiency. Extensive OJT is required to train individuals. This is especially prevalent in 71B, 71H, and 67A MOS's and should be corrected at the school level. Shortages currently exist in the following areas: MOS 70M10 (Auth: 17, Asg: 8), 71B20 (Auth: 14, Asg: 7), 71P40 (Auth: 9, Asg: 7), and 71T20 (Auth: 10, Asg: 2). During this quarter 171 enlisted replacements were received leaving the battalion at 93% of its enlisted strength at the end of the quarter, a drop of 3% since the previous quarter.

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Inclosure

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(7) The quality of officer replacements has been satisfactory. Only 20% of the aviator replacements arrived directly out of flight school. However, shortages of commissioned officers remain critical. Totals of 22 Commissioned officers and 14 Warrant officers were received during this quarter leaving the battalion with 70% of its authorized commissioned strength of 191 and 95% of its authorized warrant strength of 57, or an overall officer percentage of 78%.

(8) Reenlistment: During this reporting period the battalion reenlistment team conducted 16 visits to outlying companies. The results were 7 reenlistments of career soldiers and 9 first term reenlistments. This represents 43% of the eligible first term soldiers and 100% reenlistment of career soldiers.

(9) Current status of the 223d Aviation Battalion (Combat) is attached as Inclosure 1.

(10) The significant personnel changes within the command and staff during the last quarter are as follows:

(a) The Honorable Martin, IN, 260-61-5262, assumed duties as Battalion S-3 on 1 Nov 1969, vice CPT Thomas E. Higdon, IN, 263-54-7784.

(b) CPT John C. Schindler, FA, 363-40-2369, assumed duties as Battalion S-4 on 6 Dec 1969, vice CPT James L. George, IN, 243-50-6114.

(c) CPT Glenn R. Allen, IN, 251-66-2894, assumed duties as Battalion Assistant S-3 on 1 Nov 1969.

(d) MAJ William C. Axtell, SC, 425-58-3374, assumed duties as Battalion S-2 on 13 Nov 1969, vice CPT Burnell A. Mercer, TC, 569-36-1188.

(e) MAJ William C. Axtell, SC, 425-58-3374, assumed duties as Battalion S-2 on 1 Jan 1970, vice MAJ Richard C. Axtell, SC, 425-58-3374.

(f) CPT Paul E. Wilcox, SC, 425-43-0616, assumed duties as Battalion S-2 on 1 Jan 1970, vice CPT Glenn R. Allen, IN, 251-66-2894.

(g) CPT Don L. Hayes, AR, 448-34-0065, assumed duties as Battalion S-1/Adjutant on 1 Dec 1969, vice CPT Earle Steinberg, IN, 030-32-9583.

(h) CPT George R. Black, FA, 259-68-5893, assumed duties as Battalion Aviation Safety Officer on 1 Nov 1969, vice CPT John M. Grilli, TC, 151-33-4669.

(i) CPT David H. O'Hara, TC, 131-34-4986, assumed duties as Battalion Aviation Maintenance Officer on 28 Dec 1969, vice CPT Robert B. Torrey Jr., TC, 258-66-7457.

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(j) CW2 Herbert L. Clark, QM, 439-42-3553, assumed duties as Battalion Supply Technician on 30 Nov 1969.

(k) CW2 James L. Pesicka, OD, 504-46-9819, assumed duties as Battalion Auto Maintenance Technician on 12 Jan 1970, vice CW2 Robert K. Savage, OD, 467-32-4430.

(l) CPT Terrance E. Wehrkamp, SC, 503-44-5478, released by DEROS on 6 Dec 1969 as Battalion Signal Officer.

(m) CPT John M. Smith, AR, 513-34-7358, assumed duties as HHC Commander on 24 Nov 1969, vice CPT David S. Tracy, IN, 537-38-0494.

(n) MAJ Thomas L. McCord, AR, 261-42-1474, assumed command of the 18th Aviation Company (Utility Airplane) on 8 Dec 1969, vice MAJ William A. Bloemsa, IN, 577-50-0827.

(o) MAJ Willis L. Manley, FA, 517-34-7672, assumed command of the 183d Aviation Company (Utility Airplane) on 24 Dec 1969, vice MAJ Edward L. Harris, IN, 423-24-4476.

(p) MAJ William A. Moldaschel, FA, 474-38-7800, assumed command of the 203d Aviation Company (Utility Airplane) on 9 Jan 1970, vice MAJ Daniel R. Bailey, IN, 231-30-0324.

(q) MAJ David C. Naumann, IN, 397-28-6545, assumed command of the 219th Aviation Company (Utility Airplane) on 20 Nov 1969, vice MAJ Robert H. Stafford, IN, 558-46-7412.

(6) Casualties: The battalion casualties for the period were five wounded. (See Inclosure #2)

(7) Awards: A breakdown of unit awards appears in Inclosure #2)

### c. (C) Intelligence.

(1) Enemy Situation: The enemy initiated a major operation in November in the Bu Prang-Duc Lap area involving elements of the 28th NVA Regt, 66th NVA Regt, K-394th Arty Bn, K-33d Arty Bn and K-37 Sapper Bn. This offensive was exhausted by the first week in December and activity remained light and scattered until January. Starting in the first week of January, reports of a possible Tet buildup and offensive began to accumulate along with some activity in Binh Dinh province to include stand-off fire attacks against An Khe and LZ English. Overall enemy activity increased with the possibility of a Tet Offensive indicated at the end of this reporting period.

(2) Ground Attacks: There was one ground attack against an airfield where elements of the 223d Aviation Battalion were located during the

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period 1 November through 31 January. This was directed against Dong Ba Thin on 30 November and resulted in one man slightly wounded with no damage to unit aircraft. There were 33 stand-off fire attacks reported from these installations with Ban Me Thuot and An Khe hardest hit followed by Dong Ba Thin and Gia Nghia.

(3) Air Activity: Units of the 223d Aviation Battalion reported 104 shot-at incidents during this reporting period. The battalion lost one O-1 as a result of enemy action. The following is a breakdown by unit:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>SHOT-AT*</u>	<u>HIT</u>	<u>DESTROYED</u>	<u>TOTAL JSIR'S</u>
18th Avn Co (UA)	1	0	0	1
183d Avn Co (UA)	1	4	0	5
185th Avn Co (UA)	70	6	1	76
203d Avn Co (UA)	14	3	0	17
219th Avn Co (UA)	9	3	0	12
225th Avn Co (SL)	9	0	0	9
TOTAL	104	16	1	120

\* Shot-At reports are not inclusive of hit and destroyed reports.

#### (4) Collection Plan:

(a) The four O-1 companies of the 223d Aviation Battalion flew 8,155 visual reconnaissance sorties and reported 2,615 significant sightings. The 225th Aviation Company (Surveillance Airplane) flew 327 SLAR missions, 3,854 IR missions, and 486 visual/photo missions.

(b) Numerous OIR's (Other Intelligence Requirements) were levied on this battalion including requests for information on enemy use of chemical warfare, new or modified enemy weapons, and position reports of the 22d NVN Regiment. One SICR (Specific Intelligence Collection Requirement) was requested concerning possible locations and data on VC factories.

#### (5) Administrative Intelligence Activities:

(a) Security Clearances: During the past quarter, the 223d Aviation Battalion processed 76 SECRET clearances, 20 CONFIDENTIAL clearances, one Background Investigation, and five National Agency Checks. US-IR checks were submitted for verification of 6 TOP SECRET clearances.

(b) War Trophies: Three war trophies were reported and properly registered during this reporting period.

(c) Dissidence Report: One individual in the 219th Aviation Company was reported as a possible dissident personnel during this reporting period.

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### (d) Survival, Escape, and Evasion:

1 All aviators assigned to the 223d Aviation Battalion received a thorough briefing on Survival, Escape, and Evasion as part of their unit inprocessing orientation. Emphasis was placed on the survival, escape and evasion equipment available and the proper procedures for employment of the equipment in order to provide for an efficient, effective recovery of downed aircrew personnel.

2 Many newly assigned aviators have attended one of the three available survival, escape and evasion courses while enroute to the Republic of Vietnam. Available schools for enroute and assigned personnel are:

- a PACAF Jungle Survival School (PJSS), Clark AFB, Phillipines.
- b PACAF Life Support School (PLSS), Kadena AFB, Okinawa.
- c FLETC Jungle Environmental Survival School (JEST), Subic Point NAS, Phillipines.

3 At the present time, the battalion has 39 survival, escape and evasion school trained personnel assigned throughout its units. During this reporting period quotas were received allowing three crewmembers from units of this battalion to attend the PLSS course in Okinawa. No quotas for other schools were received.

### d. (C) Operations.

(1) The 223d Aviation Battalion (Combat) continued to provide fixed wing aviation support to the US and Free World Forces located primarily in the II Corps Tactical Zone, Republic of Vietnam. This support was rendered utilizing the assets of one U-1A company, four O-1 companies, and one OV-1 company. The battalion flew a total of 25,480 hours of combat support with an average availability rate of 81.0% during this reporting period. Both normal and special operations were supported by units of the battalion. The only large scale operation was in connection with the enemy offensive in the Bu Prung-Duc Lap area. Remaining support was largely given to units operating in search of enemy supply caches, infiltration routes, anti-aircraft, mortar and rocket firing positions.

(2) Numerous inspection visits were made by staff personnel to subordinate operations sections. New inspection checklists were prepared from the latest regulations and distributed prior to inspection visits. In-depth inspections were then made in areas covered by the checklists and results forwarded through channels to unit commanders for corrective action. Previously weak areas have been largely brought up to standard as a result of these efforts.

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SUBJECT: 13th Aviation Company Lessons Learned, 223d Aviation Battalion  
(13th Aviation Company Ending 31 January 1970)

(3) 13th Aviation Company (Utility Airplane): The 13th Aviation Company was able to fulfill its ten associated mission requirements throughout the four areas of the Republic of Vietnam. The first platoon at Nha Trang flew two aircraft daily to support 5th Special Forces Group, JUSPA, 17th Aviation Group and 1st RV. The first flight section of the second platoon at Camp Field in Pleiku flew two aircraft daily to support II Corps and 1st and 2nd Company, 5th Special Forces Group. The second flight section at Camp Field, located at Marble Mountain, Da Nang, flew three aircraft daily to support III Corps. Design 1 aircraft flew a total of 1,437 hours during the quarter period with an average aircraft availability rate of 94.04.

(4) 13th Aviation Company (Utility Airplane): The 13th Aviation Company was able to fulfill its ten associated mission requirements throughout the four areas of the Republic of Vietnam. The first platoon at Nha Trang flew two aircraft daily to support 5th Special Forces Group, JUSPA, 17th Aviation Group and 1st RV. The first flight section of the second platoon at Camp Field in Pleiku flew two aircraft daily to support II Corps and 1st and 2nd Company, 5th Special Forces Group. The second flight section at Camp Field, located at Marble Mountain, Da Nang, flew three aircraft daily to support III Corps. Design 1 aircraft flew a total of 1,437 hours during the quarter period with an average aircraft availability rate of 94.04.

(5) 13th Aviation Company (Utility Airplane): The 13th Aviation Company was able to fulfill its ten associated mission requirements throughout the four areas of the Republic of Vietnam. The first platoon at Nha Trang flew two aircraft daily to support 5th Special Forces Group, JUSPA, 17th Aviation Group and 1st RV. The first flight section of the second platoon at Camp Field in Pleiku flew two aircraft daily to support II Corps and 1st and 2nd Company, 5th Special Forces Group. The second flight section at Camp Field, located at Marble Mountain, Da Nang, flew three aircraft daily to support III Corps. Design 1 aircraft flew a total of 1,437 hours during the quarter period with an average aircraft availability rate of 94.04.

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Smaller ARVN and ROK operations were also supported in Binh Dinh province. Assigned aircraft flew a total of 3,686 combat and combat support hours with an average aircraft availability rate of 92.4%.

(7) 219th Aviation Company (Utility Airplane): The 219th Aviation Company continued its mission of providing aviation support to the 4th Infantry Division, 52d Artillery Group, 5th Special Forces and MACV elements in Pleiku and Kontum provinces. No large scale operations were conducted by supported units during this quarter. Support to operations by the 219th was limited to artillery employment, reconnaissance, and control between units. Construction continued on perimeter bunkers at Camp Holloway, two of which were completed during this period. In addition a TOC bunker was constructed in the company area. The company flew a total of 5,346 hours while maintaining an average aircraft availability rate of 81.7%.

(8) 225th Aviation Company (Surveillance Airplane): During this reporting period 1 November 1969 through 31 January 1970, the 225th Aviation Company continued to provide Infrared, SLAR, Visual and Day and Night Photographic surveillance to the II Corps Tactical Zone. Free World Forces supported were: 4th Infantry Division, 173d Airborne Brigade, II ARVN Corps, Task Force South, Republic of Korea 9th and 10th Division, 24th Special Tactical Zone, "B" Company, 5th Special Forces Group, Quang Duc province, and IFFV. On 12 November 1969, the 225th emplaced a TKQ-2 SLAR Ground Data Station at Ban Me Thuot in support of the 23d ARVN Division by providing a real time presentation of targets. Originally employed during the siege at Bu Prang and Duc Lap, the station continued to provide valuable support to the 23d ARVN Division and Quang Duc province and has remained in service at Ban Me Thuot. Night photographic capabilities were perfected using the SUU-25 Rocket Pods during November and used for missions near Bu Prang and Duc Lap. On 15 January 1970, an Infrared Mine Detection Test was conducted with the Army Concept Team Vietnam. Test results indicate that the OV-1 Infrared system can detect mines. On 22 January the 225th completed its 30th month of accident free flying having accumulated 28,024 accident free hours. During this reporting period, a total of 3,809 hours were flown with a resulting average aircraft availability rate of 74.0%.

### e. (U) Training.

(1) All quarterly training requirements were met by the units of this battalion. Areas of emphasis have been OJT training of clerical personnel to fill needed MOS positions and aviation standardization and safety, with special emphasis on inexperienced aviators.

(2) Aviator safety classes were conducted monthly in all subordinate units and a bimonthly safety meeting was held at battalion level. Standardization meetings at battalion level were held on 3 November 1969 and 5 January 1970.

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(Cont'd), Period Ending 31 January 1970

(3) During this reporting period the battalion training program underwent extensive upgrading and inspection. Checklists and SOP's concerning training were published at battalion level and distributed to all subordinate units. Inspection visits were then made by battalion staff personnel and lists of discrepancies forwarded through channels to unit commanders for action. Follow-up inspections showed noteworthy improvements.

(4) The 223d Aviation Company conducted an Aerial Observer Training School at Qui Nhon. Twenty-five NCO's and officers completed the two-week course and now participate in regular missions.

(5) Two aviators were transitioned into the U-1A by the 18th Aviation Company during this reporting period.

### f. (1) Logistics.

(1) Airdrop assistance visits have been made by a battalion S-4 team consisting of the S-4 officer, aircraft maintenance officer, two aircraft technical inspectors, the automotive maintenance technician, and the supply technician. This team has found that actually working with subordinate units gives far better results than merely inspecting and recommending. Furthermore, working with these units gives battalion staff members first-hand insight to unit problems.

### (2) Flight Discipline

(a) Excessive deadline periods have resulted from inadequate operator maintenance. Better supervision by section chiefs and commanders has reduced the flight section inefficiencies and shortened down time.

(b) PLL clerks have been helped to update their PLL's through instruction and to properly maintain supporting documents and conduct proper maintenance. In addition they have been reviewed on pertinent regulations, AR 735-35 and 1st Avn Bde 735-35.

### (3) Aircraft Maintenance

(a) Oil samples submitted to the Petroleum Analysis Station at Cam Ranh Bay by unit service platoons must be accurate and timely. To insure this, a log containing aircraft tail number, engine serial number, airframe hours and engine time should be kept by unit maintenance officers responsible for mailing the oil samples.

(b) Aircraft down time for periodic maintenance may be cut considerably if all first echelon entries on the 2408-13 and 2408-14 forms are corrected prior to the aircraft being turned over to service platoon personnel.

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(c) Technical supply and aircraft maintenance personnel can solve many small problems before they grow by simple face-to-face contact with supporting units. Problems shared often become problems solved with outside advice and experience.

g. (U) Organization. Organizational chart and station listings appear as Inclosure #3.

h. (U) Chaplain.

(1) The 223d Aviation Battalion (Combat) Chaplain has conducted a total of 26 Sunday Protestant religious services with a total attendance of 422 soldiers.

(2) The Battalion Chaplain has supervised 40 denominational Sunday and weekday services with laymen leading. Sunday services are held weekly at the 223d Aviation Battalion Headquarters and Lane Army Heliport. Mid-week Protestant services are held at the Battalion Chaplain's Office.

(3) During this period the chaplain has made 52 visits to troops located at Ban Me Thuot, Dong Ba Thin, Phu Hiop, Pleiku, Da Nang, Kontum, Choe Reo, Dalat and Phan Thiet as well as providing continuous service at Qui Nhon and area coverage to Lane Army Heliport.

(4) The battalion's offerings, totaling \$243.43, were designated for local charities as determined by the Qui Nhon Area Consolidated Chaplain's Fund Council.

(5) During this period the Battalion Chaplain attended the Religious Day of Recollection for the 12 chaplains in the Qui Nhon area three times. The Chaplain also attended the 1st Aviation Brigade Chaplain's Conference at Long Binh during the month of January.

(6) During the Christmas season, the following items were given to the Holy Infant Orphanage from various groups in the States:

- (a) 100 boxes of clothing
- (b) 40 cases of candy
- (c) 25 cans of food
- (d) Milk to be delivered daily

(7) On Christmas Day the Battalion Chaplain made 14 visits to members of this battalion located throughout II Corps.

(8) The Battalion Chaplain has been selected to serve as a member of the Qui Nhon Area Consolidated Chaplain's Fund Council.

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i. (U) Aviation Safety. This quarter closed with one major accident. The 18th Aviation Company lost a F-1A due to engine failure. Precautionary landings and forced landings increased from last quarter. During this quarter there were eighteen precautionary landings and five forced landings. Two incidents were reported. The following chart shows the breakdown of accidents for each company:

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>ACCIDENTS</u>	<u>RATE FOR QUARTER</u>
HHC, 223d Avn Bn (Lt)	0	0
18th Avn Co (UA)	1	41.0
183d Avn Co (UA)	0	0
135th Avn Co (UA)	0	0
203d Avn Co (UA)	0	0
219th Avn Co (UA)	0	0
225th Avn Co (SA)	0	0
T.T.L	1	3.9

## j. (U) Civil Affairs.

(1) HHC, 223d Aviation Battalion continued support for the Qui Nhon War People's Committee contributions of clothing and salvage lumber. A Christmas party was given for orphans from the orphanage of the Tender Tiger in Qui Nhon. The children were invited for a Christmas dinner, and were given small presents. Additional support for this orphanage has been in the form of lumber donated from stateside groups and passed on by members of HHC, 223d Aviation Battalion.

(2) The 18th Aviation Company continued its support of the Da Nang Orphanage through the distribution of clothing and hygienic items. Twenty-two orphans were invited to Christmas dinner with the officers and men of the 18th Aviation Company.

(3) The 183d Aviation Company contributed eight man-days toward civic action projects in November. In December five man-days were given along with Christmas packages prepared by unit members and donated to local villagers. In January 500 board-feet of lumber and five man-days or the equivalent of \$17,500 were donated to the local schools for improvements.

(4) The 135th Aviation Company continued an active civil affairs program. Projects ranged from building beds for Ban Leu's Montagnard Orphanage, repairing churches and schools, playing volleyball and tennis with the Vietnamese civilians, and participating in the Christmas programs at the Catholic Orphanages of Ban Me Thuot and Cheo Reo. The men of the 135th donated two hundred pounds of cement to the construction of the Ban Me Thuot Skin Clinic to aid in the treatment of leprosy.

(5) The 203d Aviation Company secured a turkey dinner on Thanksgiving with 10 orphans and 3 Catholic monks from the nearby orphanage. On Christmas

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Day the men of the 203d delivered 50 pounds of candy, soap, chewing gum and toothpaste to two local orphanages. In addition the men made minor repairs, donated salvaged lumber and tin for repairs and improvements.

(6) The 225th Aviation Company opened its mess hall to 30 orphans from the Tuy Hoa Orphanage for a Thanksgiving dinner. In continuing to recognize the needs of the orphanage, food has been donated on a regular basis since Thanksgiving.

### k. (C) Signal.

(1) ZYR Program: The ZYR program which provides for the modification of all U.S. Army aircraft in RVN to accept the new family series of radios, was completed early in this reporting period. Two O-1A aircraft, tail numbers 51-12508 and 51-12086, were received in late January with the old series radios, AN/ARC-44 and AN/ARC-60, installed. To comply with the ZYR program, these aircraft will be modified as soon as support is available. However this unit has been advised that at least 30 days will be required to get modification kits in country and then no specific date for modification is set due to the low priority assigned for this modification.

(2) ZYS Program: The ZYS program which provides for the modification of O-1 and OV-1 aircraft to install TSEC/KY-28 secure voice equipment, is completed as stated in the previous ORLL with the exception of one O-1E and two O-1A aircraft received in late January. The O-1E aircraft will be modified as soon as possible and the O-1A aircraft as soon as the ZYR program has been completed on them.

(3) High Frequency Radio Teletypewriter System: Four companies have been issued the AN/VSC-2 RATT with the result that each company headquarters now has direct communications available with battalion headquarters. Secure Teletype communications are in operation to all but one company which requires certain repair parts to be operational.

### 1. (U) Public Information.

(1) The 223d Aviation Battalion Information Office continued its mission of supplying material to all subordinate units for use in their information programs and publishing the battalion monthly newspaper, "The Griffin Gab".

(2) Support from units in the Hometown News Release Center for this period remained constant at the last quarters level. This quarter's figures are as follows:

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SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 223d Aviation Battalion  
(Combat), Period Ending 31 January 1970

<u>UNIT</u>	<u>NOV</u>	<u>DEC</u>	<u>JAN</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
HHC, 223 Avn Bn (Cbt)	16	2	11	29
18th Avn Co (UA)	4	9	6	19
183d Avn Co (UA)	11	11	0	22
185th Avn Co (UA)	19	6	12	37
203d Avn Co (UA)	14	11	4	29
219th Avn Co (UA)	2	3	0	5
225th Avn Co (UA)	10	15	26	51
TOTAL	<u>76</u>	<u>57</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>192</u>

(3) During this reporting period, 65 news releases were processed through the 223d Aviation Battalion Information Office and 45 were forwarded to the 17th Aviation Group for use in other Command Information media.

### 2. Section 2. Lessons Learned: Commander's Observations, Evaluations and Recommendations.

a. ( ) Personnel. None

b. ( ) Intelligence. Visual Reconnaissance pre- and post-mission briefing.

(1) Observations: Aviators flying reconnaissance missions perform best when adequately informed of enemy activities and when they see tangible results from their VR sightings.

(2) Evaluation: The consolidation of Air Force and Army intelligence reports along with intelligence contributions from supported units and his parent unit make a valid picture of the enemy situation for a reconnaissance pilot. This concrete knowledge of what he is looking for along with the knowledge of what will be done with his sightings allows the aviator to fulfill his mission in the most efficient manner. Where such pre- and post-mission information has been furnished, aviator morale has soared along with mission results.

(3) Recommendation: That pre- and post-mission intelligence briefings be given by supported units to reconnaissance pilots. These briefings should summarize the enemy situation in the pre-mission briefing and actions planned on the basis of the reconnaissance mission in the post-mission briefing.

(4) Command Action: Coordination has been made by subordinate units to allow reconnaissance aviators to attend pre-mission briefings along with Air Force FAC and rotary wing aviators.

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### c. (C) Operations.

#### (1) SUU-25 Flare Dispenser:

(a) Observation: The night photographic capability of this unit's Mohawk aircraft has been reestablished using the SUU-25 flare dispenser.

(b) Evaluation: To obtain usable night photographic results with the KS-61 camera system on the OV-1, it is necessary for the aircraft to maintain a continuous ground clearance of 800 to 1000 feet. The problems and hazards involved in flying fixed-wing aircraft at 200 Kts over rolling and mountainous terrain at a constant low altitude required some method of artificially lighting the terrain. Due to the wide area in II Corps covered, illumination cannot be provided for all missions by artillery, Air Force A-119's or AC-47's, or Army Helicopter Wing aircraft without excessive support and extremely time-consuming coordination. Therefore an illumination system that can be utilized by the OV-1 itself is required, however there is nothing currently in the Army inventory which can provide more than a four-flare capability for the OV-1.

Liaison with the Air Force revealed a flare dispenser used on the F-100 which carried eight illumination flares per dispenser. This dispenser, the SUU-25 B/A MK-24, can be mounted without modification under each wing of the OV-1, giving a sixteen flare capability. This system was tested and then used for combat support at the Bu Prang area. Results were excellent and indicate that night photographic missions may now be safely performed using the SUU-25 system in conjunction with standard night photographic equipment of the OV-1.

(c) Recommendation: That the SUU-25 B/A MK-24 flare dispenser system be adopted into the Army inventory and that its use be authorized by TOE for OV-1 units.

(d) Command Action: Part reports on the SUU-25 system have been forwarded through channels. Requests for authorization to retain this equipment on receipt from the Air Force have been submitted, and necessary coordination made with the Air Force. Current night photographic missions are utilizing this equipment.

#### (2) Movement of Unit Equipment:

(a) Observation: Highly technical equipment and equipment that is difficult to move can be moved most efficiently by the owning unit.

(b) Evaluation: An AI/TAQ-1 ground data terminal located at LZ Uplift was requested to be moved by the 173d Airborne Brigade. Coordination and control of the movement was given to the Commanding Officer of the 225th Aviation Company, the owning unit. After coordinating with the using unit, the 173d Airborne Brigade, the 225th selected a new location at LZ Two Bits and made a ground reconnaissance to determine the best site.

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Direct liaison with a CH-47 crew from the 180th Aviation Company was effected by the 225th Operations Officer. The move was accomplished so successfully that the ground data terminal was operational in its new location within 48 hours of the original movement request.

(c) Recommendation: That since owning units know the requirements and problems inherent with their equipment, owning units should be given responsibility for making necessary equipment movements.

(d) Command Action: Coordination has been made with supported units and their staffs to ensure that such a policy is followed in the future.

### (3) Coordination between Army O-1 Aviators and Air Force FAC's:

(a) Observation: Coordinated action between "Milt" Forward Air Controllers and 135th Aviation Company pilots in Quang Duc province resulted in reduced air congestion and allowed continuous coverage of target areas with maximum pressure on the enemy.

(b) Evaluation: Combining Air Force and Army missions by putting both an Air Force and Army aviator in the same aircraft resulted in greatly increased mission effectiveness in the support of the Bu Prang and Duc Lap Special Forces Camps. Army and Air Force aviators received briefings together and then flew together in either an Army or Air Force aircraft. From the start it was understood that regardless of who was flying, the Air Force pilot controlled tactical air strikes while the Army aviator was responsible for adjusting artillery and controlling helicopter gunships. Yet both aviators were familiar with the other's job so that each could take over if maintenance problems prevented the other from communicating. The result was that only half the number of aircraft were flown than would otherwise have been required. The extra aircraft were then available when needed to meet sudden tactical emergencies and keep up a constant air support to ground units. In addition Air Force and Army aviators gained a greater understanding of each other's mission and a sense of cooperation that continues beyond a single mission frame.

(c) Recommendation: That Army and Air Force Commanders at the lowest levels establish liaison to assist each other in accomplishing their missions.

(d) Command Action: Unit Commanders have been encouraged to coordinate with the Air Force units in their area.

### (4) Use of Reaction Time:

(a) Observation: Normal reaction time after locating a stationary target before an airstrike or artillery is brought in on the target may be put to valuable use.

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(b) Evaluation: Several aviators have found hootches, bridges or other stationary targets and called destructive missions in on them. However in the period it takes for tactical air or artillery to get into action, the entire area may be reconnoed. Since enemy activity is evident in the area, better targets are often found to divert an arriving air strike against. If an aviator merely observes a single target until it is hit, he loses the opportunity to hit other nearby targets with reduced reaction time.

(c) Recommendation: Aviators should be orientated by initial training and on standardization checkrides to make constant and best use of their airborne time.

(d) Command Action: The above procedure has been put into Standardization channels for dissemination to unit aviators.

d. (U) Organization. None

e. (U) Training. None

f. (C) Logistics. Fuel Contamination

(1) Observation: Fuel contamination at outlying units continues to be a problem.

(2) Evaluation: If the usual single fuel source at an outlying site is suspected of contamination, long mission delays may result due to the time to get more fuel and to have samples taken to central locations for analysis. Alternate fuel sources may be maintained to prevent such delays, however care must be taken that alternate fuel sources do not get contaminated themselves by being left uninspected for long periods. When alternate sources are required, the fuel should be checked prior to its use and filtered again as it is pumped for aircraft use.

(3) Recommendation: That alternate fuel sources be provided and that they be periodically inspected. That when they are to be used, the same type filter system used on fuel tankers be used to filter the fuel before it is used in any aircraft.

(4) Command Action: These recommendations are being implemented by subordinate units.

g. (C) Communications. Old Series Radios:

(1) Observation: Several O-1A aircraft have been received in country with AN/ARC-44 FM and AN/ARC-60 UHF radios installed.

(2) Evaluation: These radios do not have the capability to net with all frequencies used by the current series of radios. The AN/ARC-54 FM

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and AN/ARC-51BX radios. Aircraft equipped with old radios cannot communicate with most airfield controls on UHF or many ground units on FM. To be fully mission ready, these aircraft must have the new series radios installed by receiving units. This involves an extended delay due to at least a 30-day wait for modification kits to be received in country after being ordered. Further time is lost as the low priority assigned to this modification generally results in another 30 - 60 day wait for the modification to be performed.

(3) Recommendation: Time and material support for switching old series to new series radios can be most easily found prior to aircraft leaving CONUS. To be fully mission ready in the shortest period of time after arrival in country, aircraft should be retrofitted with the AN/ARC-51 and AN/ARC-51BX radios before arrival in Vietnam.

(4) Command Action: Aircraft not modified prior to arrival at this unit are being modified upon arrival.

### h. (C) Materiel. Spartan Engine Failures:

(1) Observation: During calendar year 1969, this unit has received 42 U-1A aircraft engines overhauled by Spartan Aircraft Company of Tulsa, Oklahoma. All but six of these engines failed prior to scheduled replacement times.

(2) Evaluation: Spartan rebuilt engines were expected to last for 1200 flight hours. Due to extremely high failure rates, this figure was reduced to 600 flight hours in September 1969, by a DA level technical bulletin. In spite of an average of 300 man-hours required per engine to correct installation mistakes and adjust tolerances prior to putting each engine on an aircraft, only ten of the forty-two engines received were able to fly to the 600 hour mark, and no engine has functioned to the 1200 mark. These engines cannot be relied upon to perform satisfactorily for any period of time. They have failed after only two hours and their median failure time is 220 hours.

(3) Recommendation: That all Spartan overhauled engines be removed from the supply system and engines overhauled by the current contractor, Pratt and Whitney, be substituted immediately.

(4) Command Action: Numerous EIR's have been submitted on this subject. Aircraft having Spartan engines are currently restricted to daylight VMC situations except for tactical emergencies and short climb-outs or approaches under IMC situations.

### i. (U) Others. None.

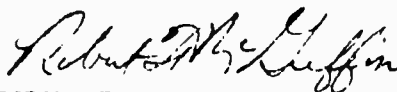
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9 February 1970

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 223d Aviation Battalion  
(Combat), Period Ending 31 January 1970



ROBERT F. MC GUFFIN  
LTC, IN  
Commanding

5 Incl

~~1. Unit Strengths~~

~~2. Unit casualties and awards~~

3. Operational Statistics

4. Aircraft Status

5. Organizational Chart

Incl 1 and 2 wd HQ, DA

DISTRIBUTION:

2 CINUSARPAC, ATTN: GPOP-DT, APO 96558

3 CG, USARV, ATTN: AVHGC-DST, APO 96375

2 CG, 1st Avn Bde. ATTN: AVB-GC-O, APO 96384

7 CO, 17th Avn Gp (Cbt), ATTN: AVBACB-SC, APO 96240

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AVBACB-SC (9 Feb 70) 1st Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 223rd Aviation Battalion (Combat), Period Ending 31 January 1970, AOS CSFOR-65 (H1) (1)

DA, HEADQUARTERS, 17TH AVIATION GROUP (COMBAT), APO 96240 24 February 1970

TO: Department of the Army (ACSFOR, DA), Washington, D.C. 30310  
Commanding General, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350

1. (C) This headquarters has reviewed the attached report, considers it to be adequate, and concurs with the content as stated, except as indicated below.

2. (C) The following comments and recommendations are submitted:

a. Section I, Operations: Significant Activities.

(1) Paragraph 1b(4), Personnel, Incl #1. The reported figures should agree with the PDS reported 31 Jan 70. Nonconcur. The figures in Incl #1 do not agree with the PDS. The PDS figures are: OFF-136, IO-55, LIF-861, total 1056.

(2) Paragraph 1c, Page 7, Training. In this paragraph commanders will state the number of days during the reporting period that the unit engaged in training, troop movements, or operations. Reference USAF regulation 525-15, Para 5b(1)(c).

(3) Paragraph 1f(3)(a), Page 8, Aircraft Maintenance. Concur with recommendation that an action officer's name and telephone number be provided with each sample to expedite notification of analysis results.

(4) Paragraph 1, Section I, Operations: Significant Activities. No input from Surgeon included.

b. Section 2, Lessons Learned: Commander's Observation, Evaluations and Recommendations.

(1) Paragraph 2f, Page 15, Fuel Contamination. Nonconcur. If regular inspections of fuel filters are made and periodic fuel samples are taken at the fuel site, there should be minimum fuel contamination problems. An alternate fuel source would not alleviate the problem because the same fuel and filter inspections must be performed and there would be no guarantee that the alternate fuel source would not become contaminated.

(2) Paragraph 2g(3), Page 16, Old Series Radio. Concur. To retrofit these aircraft in Vietnam takes from 30-45 days to complete.

(3) Paragraph 2h(3), Page 16, Spartan Engine Failures. Concur: All Spartan Engines presently in supply have been recalled upon verbal



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AFM-EC (9 Feb 70) 1st Ind 24 February 1970  
SUEC-31 Operational Report - Lessons Learned, 223rd AEW (Combat), Period Ending 31 January 1970, AEC 31-31 (at)

permission from AEC. As engines are changed first and Whitey will be installed.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*Robert C. Rice*

ROBERT C. RICE

1LT, USAF

Adjutant

CF:  
CO, 223rd AEW(C)

**CONFIDENTIAL**

8 MAR 1970

AVFA-GC-HIST (9 Feb 70) 2d Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned 223d Aviation Battalion  
(Combat), Period Ending 31 January 1970, RCS CSFOR-65 (R-)  
(U)

DA, Headquarters, I Field Force Vietnam, APO 96350

TO: Commanding General, 1st Aviation Brigade, APO 96304

(U) This headquarters has reviewed and evaluated subject Operational Report-Lessons Learned and forwarding indorsement and concurs.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

*[Signature]* ILTA  
FREDERICK E. [unclear]  
107 0  
1 00

CF:

- 1 - CO, 17th AVN GP (CBT)
- 1 - CO, 223d AVN BN (CBT)

A/BAGC-C (9 Feb 70) 3rd Lt  
SUBJECT: Operational report - 1st Lt. learned, 121st Airborne Division  
(Combat, 1st Airborne Division, January 1970, 121st Airborne Division)  
(U)

A, H2, 1st AVIATION BRIGADE, 1st Airborne Division, 121st Airborne Division

TO: Commanding General, 1st Airborne Division, 121st Airborne Division  
AGC 96555

Commander-in-Chief, United States Army Pacific, AFHQ, GPO-PH,  
AGC 96555

Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the  
Army, Washington, DC 20315

This headquarters has reviewed subject report and concurs with the  
contents as indicated

The following comments are for your information:

1. The report is well written and contains a good deal of information.  
The report is well written and contains a good deal of information.  
The report is well written and contains a good deal of information.

2. The report is well written and contains a good deal of information.  
The report is well written and contains a good deal of information.  
The report is well written and contains a good deal of information.

*Arthur W. Little*  
ARTHUR W LITTLE  
CH 1 AGC  
ASST AG.

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AVHCC-DCT (9 Feb 70) 4th Ind

SUBJECT: Operational Report-Lessons Learned, 223d Aviation Battalion (Combat), Period Ending 31 January 1970

Headquarters, United States Army, Vietnam, APO San Francisco 96375 30 MAR 1970

TO: Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: G-4-P-37,  
APO 96558

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 January 1970 from Headquarters, 223d Aviation Battalion (Combat), and concurs with the contents of the report.

2. (C) Comments follow:

a. (C) Reference item concerning "OV-105 Flare Dispenser", page 12, paragraph 2c(1). 1st Aviation Brigade is examining the dispenser to determine its suitability for OV-105 aircraft. Recommend that this matter be addressed by AVSCOM.

b. (U) Reference item concerning "Fuel Contamination", page 15, paragraph 2f, and paragraph 2b(1), 1st Indorsement: concur with the indorsement. The alternate fuel source would also be subject to the possibility of fuel contamination. Fuel contamination is best controlled by frequent inspections of fuel filters and by periodic fuel sampling. Action by higher headquarters is recommended.

c. (C) Reference item concerning "Old Series Radios", page 15, paragraph 2f, and paragraph 2b(1), 1st Indorsement: concur. As a result of the Closed Loop Support Conference, March 1970, AVSCOM is establishing a program whereby all OV-105 aircraft modifications will be accomplished in CONUS.

d. (U) Reference item concerning "Spartan Engine Failures", page 16, paragraph 2h, and paragraph 2b(3), 1st Indorsement: concur. Action has been taken by AVSCOM to remove the Spartan overhauled engines from the supply system, and to replace them with those overhauled by Canadian Pratt and Whitney. The Logistics Division, USARV Aviation Section disseminated this information to USARV units on 27 February 1970.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

Cy furn:  
1st Avn Bde  
223d Avn Bn

L. D. MURRAY  
AGC  
Assistant Adjutant General

CONFIDENTIAL

GPOP-DT (9 Feb 70) 5th Ind (U)

SUBJECT: Operational Report of HQ, 223d Aviation Battalion (Combat)  
for Period Ending 31 January 1970

HQ, US Army, Pacific, APO San Francisco 96558 3 APR 1970

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development, Department of the  
Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters concurs in subject report as indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:

*D.D. Cline*  
D.D. CLINE  
2LT, AGC  
Asst AG

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OPERATIONAL RESULTS

UNIT	SORTIES FLOWN	TROOPS LIFTED	CARGO LIFTED (TONS)	STRUCTURES				AIRCRAFT DAMAGED	AIRCRAFT COMPLETED LOST
				DAY	DEST	DAY	DEST		
HHC, 223d Avn Bn	308	263	2.3	0	0	0	0	0	0
18th Avn Co (UA)	2127	6241	265.6	0	0	0	0	0	1
183d Avn Co (UA)	3181	32	0	0	0	0	0	5	1
185th Avn Co (UA)	2695	41	2.0	278	53	0	4	4	1
203d Avn Co (UA)	2457	0	0	64	172	2	6	3	0
219th Avn Co (UA)	4119	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	0
225th Avn Co (S.)	1267	24	3.4	0	0	0	0	2	0
TOTAL	16,154	6601	273.8	342	225	2	10	16	2

AIRCRAFT LOST: 1 U-1A  
1 O-1G

AIRCRAFT DAMAGED: 2 O-1D  
1 O-1E  
11 O-1G  
2 OV-1C

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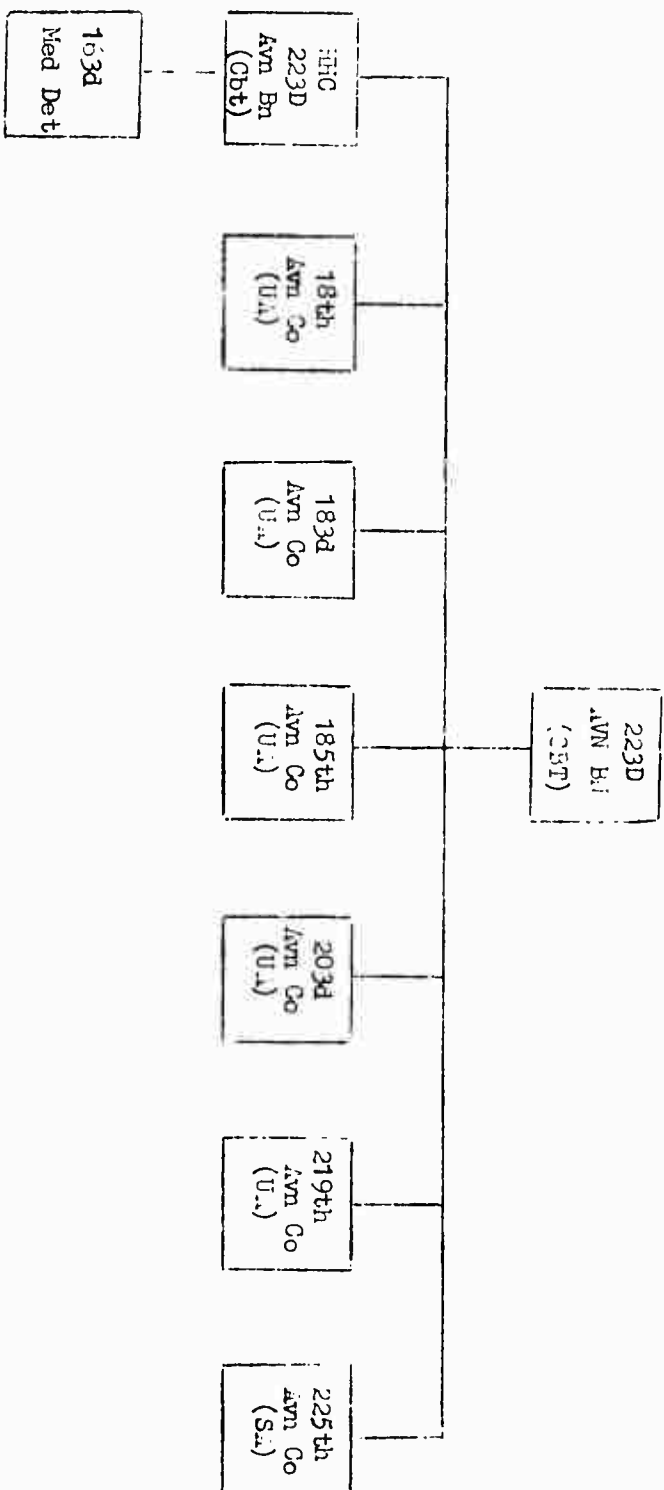
AIRCRAFT STATUS AS OF 31 JANUARY 1970

UNIT	O-1		U-6A		U-1A		OV-1	
	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H	AUTH	O/H
PHC, 243d Avn Bn (Obt)	0	0	3	3	0	0	0	0
184th Avn Co (UA)	0	0	0	0	16	15	0	0
183d Avn Co (UA)	24	22	1	1	0	0	0	0
185th Avn Co (UA)	24	22	1	1	0	0	0	0
203d Avn Co (UA)	24	22	1	1	0	0	0	0
219th Avn Co (UA)	32	29	1	1	0	0	0	0
225th Avn Co (UA)	0	0	1	1	0	0	12	18
TOTAL	104	96	8	8	16	15	12	18

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Incl #4

# ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



UNIT	LOCATION	AF0
*HHC, 223d Aviation Battalion (Combat)	Qui Nhon	96238
18th Aviation Company (Utility Airplane)	Qui Nhon	96238
183d Aviation Company (Utility Airplane)	Dong Ba Thien	96377
185th Aviation Company (Utility Airplane)	Ban Me Thuot	96297
203d Aviation Company (Utility Airplane)	Phu Hiep	96316
219th Aviation Company (Utility Airplane)	Pleiku	96494
225th Aviation Company (Surveillance Airplane)	Phu Hiep	96316
*163d Medical Detachment	Qui Nhon	96238



UNCLASSIFIED

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CO, 223d Aviation Battalion		
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